

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASST. SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PPDC

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO GENERAL OBASANJO

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED AUGUST 18 FROM PRESIDENT
CARTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO, HEAD OF STATE AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, LAGOS:

QUOTE: DEAR GENERAL OBASANO:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER AND FOR YOUR THOUGHTS
ABOUT THE MOOD IN AFRICA CONCERNING THE URGENT NEED FOR
PROGRESS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

WHEN I WROTE YOU IN JUNE, I NOTED THAT MR. GRAHAM AND
AMBASSADOR LOW WERE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ATTEMPTING TO GAIN
THE SALISBURY GROUP'S AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ALL-
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PAGE 02 STATE 211409

PARTIES MEETING. THEIR EFFORTS CONTINUE AS I WRITE THIS
LETTER.

THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA HAS INDEED DETERIORATED IN
RECENT WEEKS. THE FAILURE OF THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT TO BRING PEACE AND SECURITY TO THE COUNTRY

HAS BECOME MORE APPARENT. I THINK THAT MR. SMITH AND HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE COMING TO THE REALIZATION THAT THEIR CURRENT COURSE WILL LEAD TO DISASTER. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS GROWING RECOGNITION ON THEIR PART HAS NOT AS YET LED TO AN EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE INCREASING VIOLENCE AND LOSS OF LIFE RESULTING FROM THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT. THIS IS A TRAGIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL MAKE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT THE CREATION OF THE NONRACIAL, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN ZIMBABWE THAT BOTH YOU AND I DESIRE TO SEE FOUNDED.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING THE SALISBURY PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. ONCE THEY ARE THERE, COMPROMISE AND MODERATION ON ALL SIDES WILL BE CALLED FOR. SECRETARY VANCE AND I ARE SUSTAINED IN OUR EFFORTS BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT CAN BE COUNTED ON TO PRESS ENERGETICALLY FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

I AGREED WITH AND APPRECIATED THE EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY THE HEADS OF STATE IN KHARTOUM OVER THE SUGGESTION BY SOME MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES UNILATERALLY LIFT SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. AS YOU KNOW, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 211409

MY ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY OPPOSED THOSE ATTEMPTS AND I AM GRATIFIED THAT THE CONGRESS FINALLY REJECTED THE EXTREME APPROACH THAT SOME OF ITS MEMBERS HAVE PROPOSED. I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE WAS FAR LESS INJURIOUS TO OUR SHARED GOALS FOR RHODESIA. THE MOOD OF CONGRESS IS A REMINDER, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS DIVERGENCE OF OPINION IN AMERICA ON THESE PROBLEMS. THIS UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR THE MOST RAPID POSSIBLE MOVEMENT TOWARDS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

ONCE AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CANDOR AND FRIENDSHIP. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

SINCERELY, (SIGNED) JIMMY CARTER UNQUOTE

SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY POUCH. VANCE

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